

of our measures. I agree with him, and with the superintendents of Virginia, Tennessee and Alabama, who entertain the same views, that we should not relax our requirements, but rather insist more stringently on conformity to the spirit, as well as to the letter of our regulations. We have too many applicants who manifest more solicitude for increasing their income than for improving their schools. Furthermore, the State tax for education in North Carolina is very light, and a local tax is scarcely known. The schools will not become what they should be, till more liberal provision is made for them. Here, as elsewhere, it would be a great improvement if the policy of appointing politicians to the office of superintendent could be abandoned."

The following letter from Dr. Sears has been received, which may suggest to the Legislature some action in relation to the establishment of Normal Schools. It seems to me, from the short experience I have had in superintending our Public Instruction, that the most pressing want is for properly trained Teachers:

PEABODY EDUCATION FUND,  
STAUNTON, VA., Oct. 20, 1876.

HON. JOHN POOL, *Sup't Public Instruction*—

DEAR SIR: Your letter and various papers were duly received. The blank forms are good. I agree with you as to the value of Normal Schools, and should be glad of an opportunity to co-operate with the State in aiding them. We originate nothing,—do not act independently of the State, but as its auxiliary in carrying out its plans. Thus far we have felt the want of a good system of schools in North Carolina. I think all the other Southern States have a better school law. Its schools seem not to be in the full sense of the word public shools. A private school may be a free